

2022 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)

Objective: To identify and support Canadian athletes performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top 8 results at the Olympic/Paralympics Games and World Championships. Judo Canada's carding cycle runs from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

The quota of senior cards allocated by Sport Canada is **sixteen (16)** or its equivalent value of \$338,880. This amount is subject to change. Athletes will be recommended for 12 months of carding support but if upon the application of the carding criteria less than 12 months of carding is available, an eligible athlete may be recommended if there are 4 or more months of support remaining.

To be eligible for the AAP, an athlete must meet the requirements described in Section 2.3 of the "Athlete Assistant Program (AAP) Policies and Procedures": <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>.

SCHEDULE A: CARDING OF ABLE-BODIED JUDOKA

Judo Canada's High Performance Committee, upon recommendation from the High Performance Director, will determine a priority ranking of all AAP eligible athletes based on the carding criteria presented in this document. Sport Canada approves nominations in accordance with the AAP policies and procedures.

1. CONDITIONS FOR ALL CARDS

- 1.1 All senior carded athletes and U21 and U23 development carded athletes will be based at the National Training Centre at INS Québec in Montreal (NTC). Being based at the training centre (NTC) means that the carded athlete commits to train full-time at the NTC in Montreal. The carded athlete accepts to follow the yearly training plan designed by the High Performance Director. This plan includes all NTC-based daily judo training sessions, other types of training (e.g., strength training, mental training, etc.), performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps, or training periods that may take place in Canada or abroad, as approved by the High Performance Director.
- 1.2 All carded athletes with a D card under the age of 18 on December 31, 2021, will be based at the National Training Centre at INS Québec in Montreal (NTC) or at one of the designated Regional Training Centres (RTC), i.e., Toronto, Ontario or Lethbridge, Alberta. Being based at the National training centre (NTC) or designated RTC means that the carded athlete commits to train full-time at the NTC or RTC. The carded athlete accepts to follow the yearly training plan designed by the High Performance Director and the RTC Coach. This plan includes all NTC/RTC-based daily judo training sessions, other types of training (e.g., strength training, mental training, etc.), performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps, or training periods that may take place in Canada or abroad, as approved by the High Performance Director and RTC Coach.
- 1.3 The years an athlete is carded while of Junior IJF age, do not count towards the total years of carding as a senior-age athlete.
- 1.4 A C-1 Card is designated by Sport Canada as a "probationary" card and is awarded to athletes carded for the first time at the Senior Card level. If an athlete's first Senior Card is awarded for a top 8 result

at the World Championships or Olympic Games, then the probation period does not apply and the C-1 is upgraded to a Senior International Performance Card (SR1).

- 1.5 Carding selection and the continuation of carding are dependent upon the athlete's adherence to the obligations outlined in the carding contract (Policy 17). The athlete must agree to follow the training, competitive, and administrative policies of Judo Canada (**National Team Handbook 2022**). Judo Canada will notify Sport Canada to start carding payment only when the signed athlete's contract and annual training plan have been received at Judo Canada's office.
- 1.6 Carded athletes must take part in all competitions, testing, medical examinations, and national training camps to which they are selected. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent participation in some of these events, athletes must apply to the High Performance Committee of Judo Canada for an exemption (see Policy 12- Exemption request procedure).
- 1.7 Should an athlete fail to participate in a scheduled event as required per Appendix B of the Carding Contract, the High Performance Committee will apply a sanction, as specified in the carding contract.
- 1.8 Cards are subject to termination during the carding season. The National Coaching Staff will evaluate the performance of the carded athlete, and if it is determined that the athlete does not respect the conditions of the carding contract, the card will be removed and possibly transferred to the next applicant (see section 7).

2. PRIORITIZATION

Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following order of priority:

- 1) Athletes eligible for Sport Canada's "Senior International Performance" cards (SR1/SR2);
- 2) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U18 & U21- 6 D cards;

Remainder of cards will be distributed in this order of priority until carding quotas are filled:

- 3) Athletes eligible for "Senior Performance" cards (SR/C1);
- 4) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U23 with a minimum of C National Team standard.
- 5) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U21 with a minimum of D National Team standard.
- 6) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U18 with a minimum of E National Team standard.
- 7) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U23 with a minimum of D National Team standard.
- 8) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U21 with a minimum of E National Team standard.
- 9) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U18 with a minimum of F National Team standard.
- 10) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U23 with a minimum of E National Team standard.
- 11) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U21 with a minimum of F National Team standard.
- 12) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U18 with a minimum of G National Team standard.
- 13) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U21 with a minimum of G National Team standard.
- 14) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U18.

3. Senior International Performance Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Sport Canada's Senior International Performance Card (SR1/SR2) is awarded to an athlete placing in the top 8 and top 1/2 at the **2020 Olympic Games (July 2021)**. This card is valid for a two-year period (year one designated as SR1; year two designated as SR2). However, the second year of carding is not automatic. An athlete must be nominated to Sport Canada by Judo Canada, thus he/she must:

- a) Meet the minimum standard to qualify for the next Senior World Championships (or Olympics);
- b) Respect the conditions of Judo Canada's Carding Contract.

4. DEVELOPMENT CARDING CRITERIA (D) U18 & U21

4.1 General information

Objective: To identify and support young Canadian judokas with a superior international potential, at an earlier time of their athletic development than is possible with the senior carding system. The program must allow for an enriched training and competitive schedule that will prepare selected athletes to gain skills critical for success at the senior level.

The Development Card U18 or U21 is valid for a one-year period. Only athletes under 21 years old (U21) as of December 31, 2021, and athletes under 18 years old (U18) as of December 31, 2021, are eligible for these cards. Judo Canada's financial support provided for athletes carded at the D level is designated for training, equipment, and competition costs. The athlete may be required to cost share in some competitions and camps, based on the support received. Any cost-sharing requirements will be so noted in the athlete's contract.

Six (6) Development Cards (U18 and U21) will be awarded.

4.2 Development Card Selection Procedure

Eligible athletes will be ranked according to Judo Canada ranking points as per National Team Policy 5. No minimum standard requirement is needed for those 6 development cards.

1. **Female:** The three (3) highest ranked eligible U21 athletes, with at least one being U18, will be nominated for carding.
2. **Male:** The three (3) highest ranked eligible U21 athletes, with at least one being U18, will be nominated for carding.

Note: Athletes who qualify for a Development Card and who also qualify for a Senior Performance Card have the choice of accepting any of these. If an athlete chooses to accept the Senior Performance Card, this card will count towards the total year of carding as a senior age athlete, unless the athlete is still an IJF Junior (i.e. U21) in 2022 (see 1.3). Athletes who elect to accept a Senior Performance Card will be eligible for a Development Card in future seasons if they meet the eligibility criteria for such card.

5. Senior Performance Carding Criteria (SR/C1)

5.1 Senior Performance Carding Criteria (SR/C1) are awarded for a one-year period to athletes according to their rank in the Judo Canada's National Team Standard/Ranking point system (NT Policies 3 to 8). To be eligible for a "Senior Performance" card nomination, athletes must meet the following criteria:

ENTERING year carded as a senior age athlete.	Performance Standards required for carding	National Championships Standard*
1st through 4th	National 'A' or 'B' Team Member	Participate** in the 2021 Elite Senior Nationals
5th through 7th	National 'A' Team Member; or National "B" Team and ranked in the top 18 on the IJF World Ranking list on December 31, 2021. (Note: only one athlete per country, not including the host nation, is used to calculate top 18 as per Olympic qualifying standard).	Participate** in the 2021 Elite Senior Nationals

8th and beyond	National 'A' Team Member and has placed in the top 8 at the World Championship or Olympic Games within the past 4 years. ***	Participate** in the 2021 Elite Senior Nationals
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* Unless cancelled or granted an exemption by the High Performance Committee (see Policy 12).

** Participation in a tournament is defined as taking part in the first bout of the tournament.

*** In the exceptional circumstance that the 2020 Olympic Games are cancelled or postponed, an additional year could be given to meet this requirement to an athlete who has consistently ranked in the top 8 in the IJF Senior World Ranking.

5.2 Carding Nomination Procedures for Senior Performance

1. At the end of the carding qualification period (December 31, 2021), athletes will be prioritized for nomination based on National Team Points (and Standards if tied in points) as per NT Policies 3 to 8. It is a possibility that there is not enough cards for all athletes meeting minimum standards.
2. Athletes will be removed from the prioritized list if they:
 - do not meet the minimum Performance Standards;
 - did not fulfill the National Championships Standard;
 - are not involved in a High Performance training program;
 - Refuse in writing, prior or after nomination, to respect relocation criteria or any other requirements.

6. REMAINING CARDS – PRIORITY 4 to 14 – Development Card (See “2. Prioritization,” above)

Objective: To identify and support young Canadian judokas with a superior international potential, transitioning into the senior carding system. The program must allow for an enriched training and competitive schedule that will prepare selected athletes to gain skills critical to succeed at the senior level.

6.1 All the Development Cards are valid for a one-year period. Judo Canada’s financial support provided for athletes carded at the D level is designated for training, equipment, and competition costs. The athlete may be required to cost-share in some competitions and camps, based on the support received. Any cost-sharing requirements will be so noted in the athlete's contract.

6.2 As per the priority list presented in point, “2. Prioritization,” above, once priorities 1, 2 and 3 are filled the remaining available cards will be distributed as per priorities 4 to 14 until the carding quota allocation is fully distributed. No maximum or minimum numbers of cards are reserved for each priority.

6.3 U23 is defined as athletes under 23 years old (U23) as of December 31, 2021.

- 6.4 The number of Development Cards available as per priorities 4 to 14 will depend on the following:
- a) Total quota of cards allocated by Sport Canada to Judo Canada.
 - b) Total number of Senior International cards & Senior Performance cards allocated to eligible judokas.

The remaining available cards will be designated as Development Cards.

6.5 Eligibility Conditions for Development Cards

1. Participate in the Elite Senior Nationals 2021*.
2. Athletes must be involved in a High Performance training program

* Unless cancelled or granted an exemption by the High Performance Committee (see Policy 12).

6.6 Selection and nomination procedures for Development Carding Criteria priorities 4 to 14:

- a) All U23, U21, U18 athletes, as specified prior and below who did not get nominated for a card, as per priority 1, 2 and 3, will be ranked as per National Team Standard and Points (Policies 3 to 8 NT Handbook 2020-2021).
- b) The highest ranked eligible athletes (Male and Female combined), as per available cards and respecting the priorities set in point 2 will be nominated for carding.

7. Failure to meet renewal criteria for health-related reasons (Illness, Injury or Pregnancy)

A carded athlete who, at the end of the carding cycle, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of his/her carding status solely because of health-related reasons may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:

- The athlete had at least one past performance of top 8 at the Senior World championships or Olympic Games in the last 4 years;
- The athlete must have informed Judo Canada as soon as possible and, if the health issue happened prior the Elite Senior Nationals, requested an exemption as per Policy 12.
- The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high performance training and competition during the period of his or her injury, illness or pregnancy, or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by Judo Canada;
- In the view of Judo Canada, the athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy;
- Judo Canada, based on its technical judgment and that of a Judo Canada team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing to Sport Canada the expectation that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period;
- The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate his or her long-term commitment to high performance training and competition goals, as well as his or her intention to pursue full high performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which he or she wishes to be renewed, despite not having met the carding criteria.

An athlete may only be nominated to the AAP under this clause once in their career.

If more than one athlete meets this clause, they will be ranked based on the previous season international ranking.

8. WITHDRAWAL OF CARDING SUPPORT

The High Performance Committee, upon recommendation from the High Performance Director, may at any time recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's carded status to Sport Canada, provided that the following steps have been followed:

1. The athlete was provided with a verbal warning, including the steps and timelines to remedy to the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning;
2. Where applicable, a letter of warning will be sent to the athlete.

3. If the above-mentioned steps are not successful in resolving the matter and Judo Canada still wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status, Judo Canada must send a letter to their Sport Canada Program Officer and the AAP Manager, with a copy to the athlete, recommending withdrawal of the athlete's carded status. This letter must

- indicate the grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
- indicate the steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by formal letter of warning);
- provide notice to the athlete of his/her right to contest Judo Canada's recommendation to withdraw his/her carded status, through Judo Canada's internal appeal procedure, within the prescribed time.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General information on the Sport Canada - Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) can be found in the Athlete Assistance Program Athletes Handbook published by Sport Canada (2019). This guide explains the details of the AAP, the benefits to the athlete (monthly support, tuition payment, deferred tuition), and the athlete's rights.

For further information visit:

Sport Canada at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>.

10. APPEALS TO CARDING NOMINATIONS

Appeals to carding nominations are limited to incorrect application of policy or procedures. In case of an appeal, a "Grievance Procedure" will apply, as per current Judo Canada Policy.